

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: WALKER et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: March 29, 2004

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
FACILITATING TEAM PLAY OF SLOT
MACHINES

) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
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) Attorney Docket No: 03-068
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) **CUSTOMER NO.: 22927**
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as express mail in an envelope with sufficient postage and addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Dated: 03.29.04 By:


Michael D. Brinton

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a thorough search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. Nor shall the filing of this information disclosure statement be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on the accompanying Form PTO-1449 may be deemed to be pertinent to the above-identified application and are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☐ Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to the pending U.S. patent applications listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider and independently ascertain the teachings and relevance of those applications with respect to the instant application. Applicants would be pleased to provide the Examiner with a copy of these applications upon request.
2. ☐ For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a European Search Report from a counterpart European application is enclosed. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
3. ☐ For each of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application. Such items are marked as reference letter(s): _____.
4. ☒ No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

☒ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application.

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491.

- [] 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits.
5. [] No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c) after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action). The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is to be paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.
7. [] A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance, but before the payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
 - b. this document is to be considered as a petition requesting consideration of the information disclosure statement.
 - c. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

8. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue;

☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(5), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition to Withdraw Application from Issue.

☐ The fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1) is paid as set forth in paragraph 10 below.

9. ☐ I hereby certify:

☐ that each item of information contained in the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. A copy of such communication is enclosed.

☐ that no item of information contained or listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

10. ☐ Please accept payment of the fees due as indicated below:

☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p).

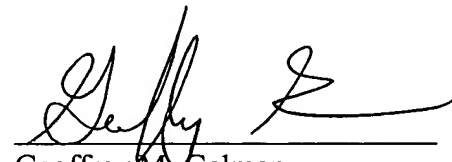
☐ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$180.00 to Deposit Account No. 50-0271 in payment of the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

11. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0271. A copy of this authorization is attached.

12. ☐ No fee is believed to be due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Respectfully submitted,

March 29, 2004
Date



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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION	Docket Number 03-068	Serial Number Not Yet Assigned
	Applicants WALKER et al.	
	Filing Date March 29, 2004	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	A	4,636,951	01/13/87	Harlick	364	412	
	B	4,669,731	06/02/87	Clarke	273	143 R	
	C	4,837,422	06/06/89	Dethloff et al.	235	380	
	D	4,837,728	06/06/89	Barrie et al.	364	412	
	E	5,042,818	08/27/91	Weingardt	273	292	
	F	5,116,055	05/26/92	Tracy	273	138 A	
	G	5,123,649	06/23/92	Tiberio	273	143 R	
	H	5,173,851	12/22/92	Off et al.	364	401	
	I	5,178,390	01/12/93	Okada	273	143 R	
	J	5,179,517	01/12/93	Sarbin et al.	364	410	
	K	5,275,400	01/04/94	Weingardt et al.	273	85 CP	
	L	5,280,909	01/25/94	Tracy	273	138 A	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No
	M	GB 2 161 008 A	01/02/86	United Kingdom				

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	N	Grochowski, John, "Players Look for Edge With Casino Gimmicks", Chicago Sun-Times, August 25, 1995, Section: Weekend Plus, Gaming, pg. 15, NC.
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EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED:
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP Section 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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	Applicants			
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	O	5,324,035	06/28/94	Morris et al.	273	138 A	
	P	5,342,049	08/30/94	Wichinsky et al.	273	119 R	
	Q	5,377,973	01/03/95	Jones et al.	273	85C P	
	R	5,393,061	02/28/95	Manship et al.	273	143 R	
	S	5,409,225	04/25/95	Kelly et al.	273	138 R	
	T	5,472,194	12/05/95	Breeding et al.	273	138 A	
	U	5,482,289	01/09/96	Weingardt	273	269	
	V	5,531,440	07/02/96	Dabrowski et al.	463	12	
	W	5,559,312	09/24/96	Lucero	235	380	
	X	5,564,700	10/15/96	Celona	463	27	
	Y	5,580,309	12/03/96	Piechowiak et al.	463	16	
	Z	5,611,535	03/18/97	Tiberio	273	143 R	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AA	Rose, Bob, "New Ways For the House to Win", St. Louis Post-Dispatch, October 3, 1996, Section: Get Out, pg. 50.
	BB	"Hot Slots & Reel Deals", Atlantic City Insider, October 1996, Vol. 1, No. 2.

EXAMINER

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EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	CC	5,611,730	03/18/97	Weiss	463	20	
	DD	5,621,201	04/15/97	Langhans et al.	235	380	
	EE	5,639,088	06/17/97	Schneider et al.	273	138.2	
	FF	5,655,961	08/12/97	Acres et al.	463	27	
	GG	5,674,128	10/07/97	Holch et al.	463	42	
	HH	6,142,872	11/07/00	Walker et al.	463	16	
	II	US 6,361,441 B1	03/26/02	Walker et al.	463	42	
	JJ	US 6,364,765 B1	04/02/02	Walker et al.	463	16	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	KK	"Triple Play Draw Poker Takes Casino Industry By Storm", IGT Press Releases, February 18, 1998, (http://www.igtgame.com/press/02-18-98.html).

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